

STI BULLETIN

A publication for users of the NASA scientific and technical information program


RECONplus Graphical User Interface Beta Test Begins

The beta test version of the RECONplus Graphical User Interface (GUI) is available for downloading. Boolean searching of approximately 2 million records in the *Main STI Database*, the *Older STI Database*, and the *Current NACA Database* is included, as well as local print and display capabilities. The client software is available via anonymous FTP at <ftp.sti.nasa.gov>.

The documentation for the system is available from the NASA STI program homepage at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov>. Both postscript and PDF formats are available under NASA RECONplus, User Documentation and Support. The PDF version is recommended for viewing. The PDF reader is available from the Adobe homepage at <http://www.adobe.com/Acrobat/readset.html>.

The RECONplus GUI software requires Internet access. The recommended, minimum hardware configuration is a 486 PC or com-

patible, with 12mb of RAM, Windows 3.1 or above, and 8mb of free disk space. The software is a self-extracting executable.

Inquiries and comments on the beta test version of the RECONplus GUI can be sent to the NASA CASI Help Desk via e-mail at help@sti.nasa.gov and by fax to (301) 621-0134. 


Announcements of STI Publications on the World Wide Web

A new, free, electronic service is available for users of STI program publications. The *STI Bulletin* listserv will announce new issues of STI publications available on the STI homepage.

Aeronautical Engineering, *Aerospace Medicine and Biology*, *NASA Patent Abstracts*, *AGARD Reports: a quarterly listing* the flagship abstract journal, *STAR*, and the NASA STI program's newsletter, the *STI Bulletin* are all in portable document format (PDF) for viewing, downloading, or local printing. Access these documents through the NASA STI homepage at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov>, selecting STI Publications.

The listserv will function like the STI program's notify capability on the *SCAN* listserv. We expect one or two short announcements each week.

The listserv will operate as other listservs with subscribe and unsubscribe commands. To subscribe send an e-mail message to listproc@sti.nasa.gov and include in the message subscribe **sti-bulletin** your name. To unsubscribe, send a note to listproc@sti.nasa.gov and include in the message **unsubscribe sti-bulletin**.

If you have questions or suggestions, please call the NASA Access Help Desk at (301) 621-0390 or send a note to help@sti.nasa.gov. 

Tips and Shortcuts in Adobe PDF for STI Documents

Electronic documents from the STI program are now being delivered via the NASA STI homepage in Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). Bi-weekly issues of *STAR* and monthly issues of *Aerospace Medicine and Biology* and *Aeronautical Engineering*, as well as this *STI Bulletin* can be viewed or downloaded and printed.


As reported in the November *STI Bulletin*, Adobe PDF files not only

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Scientific and Technical Information Office

Tips and Shortcuts for STI Documents in Adobe PDF

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offer you an exact electronic representation of the original paper document but allow for quick delivery, significant file compression and full text searching. PDF also allows the document maker to put in special features and shortcuts for the user. The STI program has made use of some of the enhancements for your benefit.

First, shortcut notes have been added to each section of the larger documents. These notes look like little "sticky notes." Using your mouse, double-click on the note to open it. Some of the shortcuts explain the use of the various buttons on the toolbar, some offer information about navigating through the document. Second, large publications, like *STAR*, have been divided into smaller files for easy retrieval. When you choose an issue of *STAR* for viewing, you retrieve just the first file containing that issue's table of contents. A look at the table of contents shows the subject divisions highlighted in blue, indicating links to the corresponding citation file. The subject divisions are broken down into separate files, thus if your interest lies in Physics, you have the ability to retrieve just the Physics subject division for downloading to your personal computer. Each subject division has its own table of contents, that in turn links to the division's subject categories. Be patient! Downloading subject division files may take 1-2 minutes. Review the section at your leisure, print it out if needed, or return to the main table of contents (using

the double left arrow button on the toolbar) to select and review another subject division.

Third, if you wish to find a particular subject term simply select the Find command from the Tools menu and type in the term. Adobe Acrobat allows you to review each instance of the term throughout that particular file.

If you require a truly portable publication, you may choose to retrieve and print each section, including the two indexes that have been added for your convenience. The Subject Term Index and the Personal Author Index can be used to find citations in the hard copy publication with relative ease.

Future columns will discuss other shortcuts and tips on using Adobe PDF documents. If you have a question that you'd like answered, send an e-mail to help@sti.nasa.gov. 

Free RECONplus Training Now Available at NASA CASI

The NASA Center for AeroSpace Information (NASA CASI) is proud to announce free one-day intensive training in the new character-based search engine for the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Database, known as RECONplus. Using standard telnet software, this interface provides unprecedented flexibility in searching and data presentation. Three searching modes are available, suiting the needs of the beginner through the sophisticated searcher.

Training is provided in NASA CASI's training room, which can accommodate 12 persons per session. Users will learn about the three modes of searching: *Quick Search*, for fast identification of documents, *Full Search*, for guided searching of specialized indexes, and *Command Search*, for direct input of search strategies without obscuring menus.

Training includes a demonstration and orientation, familiarization with the documentation, some guided, hands-on experience, an exercise to encourage exploration and experimentation within the RECONplus environment. Frequent breaks allow for personal attention and plenty of opportunities for questions. The classes run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with an hour break for lunch.

Registrants should include preferred training date and include a telephone number for confirmation. Reservations must be made at least one week in advance of the desired session date.

NASA CASI is conveniently located between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC, a short cab ride from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport

The *STI Bulletin*, published every other month, informs NASA STI users about the products, services, and news of the NASA Scientific and Technical Information Office.

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and Amtrack rail service. Hotel information and maps to NASA CASI will be sent with registration confirmation.

The NASA CASI welcomes registrants from the RECONplus user community, who may send registration requests to:

User Services

NASA Center for AeroSpace Information

800 Elkridge Landing Rd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934 or telephone: (301) 621-0390 or fax (301) 621-0134. ◀



RECONplus Training Schedule

(All classes run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DAY</u>
April	8 (Monday)
April	19 (Friday)
May	10 (Friday)
May	20 (Monday)
June	10 (Monday)
June	28 (Friday)

New Shipping and Handling Charges Effective April 1, 1996

Last January the United States Postal Service increased postal rates for domestic mail, and in March increased prices for priority mail. Starting on April 1, 1996 new domestic shipping and handling charges will be applied to document orders to cover the postal increase. Basic shipping service charges will increase to \$1.50 per document or video.

International orders will remain at \$9.00 per document or video for basic shipping service. Expedited service via UPS or Federal Express is available for \$27.00 for one to three documents or videos with and additional \$9.00 charge for each additional document or video. ◀

NASDA Representatives Visit CASI

A delegation from the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), Technical Information Division visited the Center for AeroSpace Information (CASI) on Tuesday, March 5. The delegation consisted of Mamoru Ishikawa, NASDA manager, Ms. Kumiko Tanabe, coordinator for the NASA-NASDA technical information exchange and Mr. Sakae Shioda, a NASDA computer systems specialist. Mr. Hiroshi Mitsui, Deputy Director, NASDA Washington, D.C. Office, accompanied the group.

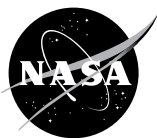
The delegation was treated to a tour of CASI with demonstrations of the many new systems being brought online. The NASDA delegation, which was in Washington for meetings with the NASA STI program, were shown a demonstration of CASI's new Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). This system is central to the transformation taking place at CASI, a movement away from paper documents to electronic documents transforming hardcopy, microfiche, and machine-readable documents into electronic objects that can be distributed worldwide through NASA networks and the Internet.

They also attended a training session that introduced them to the new RECONplus retrieval system. A question and answer period ended the day.

NASDA is one of six national level organizations that participate in NASA's international information exchange program, and is a major contributor to the NASA STI Database. ◀

You can contact the **NASA Access Help Desk** at (301) 621-0390, fax (301) 621-0134, e-mail at **help@sti.nasa.gov**, or write NASA Access Help Desk, NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934.

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Code JT
Washington, DC 20546-0001



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STAR Moves to Online Access Only

Budget constraints have forced the NASA STI Office to find alternative methods of delivering *STAR*. The 1996 issues of *STAR* will only be available in electronic form. The advent of the World Wide Web (WWW) and the Internet mean that the announcement of new citations can be made faster and more economically using these tools. Starting January 1, 1996 new *STAR* issues became available on the WWW every other Monday. The NASA STI Office has a number of other publications which can be reviewed online. Current issues of *Aerospace Medicine and Biology* and *Aeronautical Engineering* are loaded on the STI homepage for your review. Access is available via the NASA STI homepage at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov>. Once there select **STI Program Publications** for a complete listing.

Please examine the offerings and send any comments to the NASA Access Help Desk via e-mail to help@sti.nasa.gov, or call (301) 621-0390, or use the comments link to the Help Desk that is located near the top of the STI homepage.